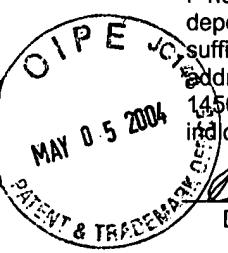


DRW

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage, as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below:

  
Daniel B. Schein, Ph.D., Esq., Reg. No. 33,551

May 1, 2004

Date

Patent Case No. 11168-4

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
Michael CLARK et al. ) Examiner John S. GOETZ  
Serial No.: 10/619,166 ) Group Art Unit No.: 3725  
Filing Date: July 10, 2003 )  
A continuation of Serial No. 09/930,896, )  
filed August 15, 2001 )  
For: APPARATUS FOR REDUCING  
TENSION VARIATIONS IN A  
METAL STRIP

**SUPPLEMENTARY PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed April 28, 2004, please amend the above-referenced application specification by inserting the following replacement paragraphs where indicated. Marked up copies of these paragraphs are attached to the end of this document.